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REMARKS

Claims 1-24 remain herein.

1. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to provide an initialed copy of PTO Form 1449 indicating receipt and consideration of references accompanying an Information Disclosure Statement filed November 23, 1999.

2. Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to provide an acknowledgement of applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and confirmation of receipt of a copy of certified copies of all priority documents.

3. Regarding claims 1 and 13, the Advisory Action of June 10, 2004, page 3, lines 3-8, cites Okubo '355, Fig. 4 and column 1, lines 30-37, as allegedly disclosing:

a master station 1 for transmitting and receiving a video or audio transmission signal ... the transmission signal comprising slave station 4 address information and master station 1 (base station) receiving frequency information indicating a frequency at which a master station 1 can receive a signal from a relay station 31 (master device/radio frequency stage).

This statement erroneously reads functionality into Okubo '355 that is not disclosed therein. Actually, Okubo '355, no where (even in column 1, lines 30-37) says anything about master station 1 transmitting a receiving frequency "information" indicating a frequency at which a master station 1 can receive a signal from a relay station 31. Such "receiving frequency information" is data describing a receiving frequency, which would have to be packaged into the form of a signal and transmitted from master station 1 to relay station 31. There is no mention in Okubo '355 of any such transmission function. Without such disclosure, Okubo '355 does not disclose all elements of applicants' claims.

Further, the Office Action cites Okubo, column 4, lines 54-61, as allegedly disclosing applicants' relay station for demodulating a portion of the signal received from the slave station, modulating such received signal at the master station return frequency (i.e., the "receiving frequency information" received from the master station), and transmitting such modulated signal. However, Okubo '355 merely says that the

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repeater/relay station is cabled to the master device, and does not say anything about converting the signal received from the slave station into a new signal modulated at the master station return frequency that had been communicated from the master station to the relay station, and then transmitting such newly modulated signal.

An element of the presently claimed invention is that the relay station performs a "handshake" with the master station, during which handshaking process the master station transmits information defining a return frequency to the relay station, so that in the future, when the relay station is relaying a transmission from a slave station to the master station, it does so at that master-station-return-frequency. In the presently claimed invention, such return frequency is not inherent to the master-station-relay-station linkage in the sense of being a fixed, unchanging communication protocol, but instead, is established each time, and packaged as an "information f0" that is specifically communicated to the relay station.

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Referring to applicants' return frequency information (f0) recited in claim 1, where does Okubo '355 disclose master station 1 transmitting such information f0? Okubo '355 does not describe or suggest that such advance, handshaking-type setup is established, which each time conveys to the relay station a particular return-frequency f0 to be used by the relay station when it does its job. Okubo '355 does not disclose or suggest applicants' handshaking step wherein a:

relay station is for receiving from the master station, return frequency information (f0) as part of a first minute-power signal, demodulating a portion of a second minute-power signal received from the slave station, modulating the demodulated portion at the master station return frequency (f0), and transmitting the modulated portion of the second minute-power signal to the master station, thereby establishing a return transmission path between the relay station and the master station

as recited in applicants' claims 1, and corresponding wording in claim 13.

The Advisory Action, page 5, line 10, to page 6, line 4 from bottom, alleges that the Okubo '355 locates relay station ("master device 3") between the master station ("base station

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1") and slave station ("slave device 4"), which are located apart from each other, stating:

generating a transmission signal from the master station 1 (base station) comprising, in addition to original audio information, information indicating an address of the slave station 4 (col 4 lines 43-52), and information indicating a frequency at which the master station 1 receives a signal from the relay station 3 (see figure 4, col 4 lines 42-52)

Again, this statement erroneously reads functionality into Okubo '355 that is not disclosed therein. Actually, Okubo '355, Fig. 4, column 4, lines 43-52 and other parts, disclose merely selecting a target station among a plurality of slave stations. Nowhere does Okubo '355 disclose or suggest that the radio wave transmitted from master station 1 to relay station 4 includes information designating the frequency which the relay station 4 should use when it re-transmits the signal originating from the slave station 1. Okubo '355 does not disclose (1) transmission by master station 1 of a message constituting such frequency information and then (2) subsequent use of that frequency information by relay station 4 to modulate the relayed slave station message for transmission to master station 1, as recited in applicants' claims.

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The Advisory Action, page 9, line 1, to page 10, last line, indicates that Okubo '355 allegedly discloses a "handshaking" exchange between radio base station 1 and repeater 2 (which includes relay 3 in dotted line portion in Fig. 4), and also allegedly discloses master station 1 transmitting and receiving a video or audio transmission signal, which comprises slave station 4 address information and master station 1 (base station) receiving frequency information. Actually, while Fig. 4 might show slave station address information because there are a plurality of slave stations 4, Okubo '355 does not disclose or suggest master station 1 (base station) transmitting frequency information, i.e., there is no transmitted message or information packet indicating a specific frequency to be used by repeater 2 (which includes relay 3 in dotted line portion in Fig. 4), when it does its job.

The Advisory Action, page 10, line 1, to page 12, line 13, and specifically at page 10, second paragraph, alleges that Okubo '355 discloses:

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a master station 1 for transmitting and receiving a video or audio transmission signal audio by utilizing a first minute-power wave 5 (see figure 4, col 3 lines 61-67), the transmission signal comprising slave station 4 address information and master station 1 (base station receiving frequency information indicating a frequency at which a master station 1 can receive a signal from a relay station 31 (master device/radio frequency stage) (see figure 4, col 1 lines 30-37;

Once again this statement erroneously reads functionality into Okubo '355 that is not disclosed therein. Actually, Okubo '355, column 3, lines 61-67 and other places describes repeater 2 (including relay station 3) as including:

a master device which transduces an RF signal received via a down link from a radio base station into a light intensity-modulated signal, branches and outputs it from a plurality of output terminals and which transduces a plurality of light intensity-modulated signal of up links, received via a plurality of input terminals.

This description merely indicates that the master device portion of repeater 2 performs modulation of the received RF signal and of up link signals, and outputs them. Okubo '355 says nothing about repeater 2 having the capability of receiving a message from master station 1 describing a return frequency to be used by repeater 2. Such information would be in the form of a frequency number that would be applied by repeater 2 to modulate

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a transmission received from a slave device. And, Okubo '355 does not disclose repeater 2 receiving such frequency information and then using it to modulate a transmission received from a slave station at that new frequency.

The Advisory Action, page 10, second paragraph, (skipping description of the slave station and relay station 31) continues, stating:

the relay station 3 modulates (col 7 line 42) the return signal receives (received) from the master station 1 and transmits the return signal 5 to the slave station 4 (see figure 4, col 7 lines 35-41), thereby establishing a return transmission path between the relay station 3 and the master station 1,

This statement does not correctly recite applicants' claim 1, because "transmits the return signal 5 to the slave station 4" should read "transmits the return signal 5 to the master station 1." Again, Okubo '355 does not disclose receiving frequency information from master station 1 and then using it to modulate a transmission received from a slave station at that new frequency.

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Applicants' claim 2, which depends from claim 1, is allowable for the same reasons explained herein as claim 1, and claim 14, which depends from claim 13, is allowable for the same reasons explained herein as claim 13.

Regarding claims 3 and 15, the Advisory Action, page 13, line 4 from bottom, alleges that Hylton '413, column 29, lines 14-21, discloses "available frequency detection means for detecting frequencies which can be used for video transmission." But, Hylton '413, column 29, lines 14-21, in fact states:

the output of the tuner 512 is fed to a frequency hopping Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) spread spectrum transmitter 516. This transmitter includes a spread spectrum generator and up converter 518 which is connected to a local oscillator or synthesizer 520 which operates in a frequency range to achieve the desired degree of up conversion of the IF signal from the tuner for on premise wireless distribution.

Transmitter 516 cycles through a list of frequencies on an available communication frequencies list, i.e., selecting the next on the list. There is no "detecting function" involved, nor is there any such detecting function occurring "in advance of use," because the list is already resident in the Hylton '413 equipment. Nowhere in the above quotation or any other place

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does Hylton '413 mention anything about "detecting" frequencies which can be used for video transmission.

Regarding claim 6, which depends from claim 3, the Office Action, page 20, line 3, to page 21, line 1 from bottom, discusses the combination of Hylton '413 and Hattori '619, but Hylton '413 does not disclose superpositioning "control" signals on the blanking period of the video signal as recited in applicants' claim 6, and Hattori '619 does not provide such deficiency.

Claims 4-12, which depend from claim 3, are allowable for the same reasons explained herein as claim 3, and claims 16-24, which depend from claim 15, are allowable for the same reasons explained herein for claim 15.

Examination and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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